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| BJECT Shortage of Material in the Rolling Mill Industry | DATE DISTR. 28 June 1955 NO. OF PAGES 2 |
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- 1. East German rolling mills require about 80,000 metric tons of pig iron in the form of flat slabs and slab blooms of certain sizes and dimensions each week. At present, however, pig-iron production in East Germany amounts to only about 45,000 metric tons per week, or only enough raw material to keep the rolling mills operating about four days a week. Flat slabs and slab blooms of certain specifications are not available. As of January 1955, East Germany was still producing about 86,000 metric tons of pig iron per week; it dropped to the amount mentioned by early May 1955.
- 2. Because of the present situation, meetings were held in late April 1955 with representatives of the Czechoslovak Trade Delegation in an attempt to import the lacking quantity of pig iron from Czechoslovakia. Wzechoslovakia refused to export the desired pig iron because there was no profit to be made on such a deal; however, an offer was made for the delivery of finished profiles.
- 3. In the 1955 trade agreement between East Germany and the USSR, provisions were made for the USSR to deliver heavy bar steel (bar steel of 30 mm.diameter and over). As of late April 1955, the delivery quota for the first quarter of 1955 was only 30 percent fulfilled. This has caused a great deal of trouble in the East German shipbuilding industry, which has had to halt some production because of the lack of the necessary large-size angle iron.

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